

Michigan schools with a higher percentage of the best reading scores tend to have more school librarian hours per student than schools with the lowest percentage of good scores.

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At Michigan elementary schools, reading test scores tend to rise as students spend more time in the library and library staff spend more time teaching students, working with teachers and developing collections.

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At Michigan middle schools, reading test scores usually rise as more computers throughout the entire school are networked to library resources, including Access Michigan.

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At Michigan high schools, reading test scores generally rise as the library is open more hours, with more professional staffing, more books, and more students visiting the library on their own.

#### Other School Library Impact Studies

For more information about recent research on the impact of school library media programs on academic achievement, visit the Library Research Service web site, <http://www.lrs.org>. Links are provided to:

- The Impact of School Library Media Centers on Academic Achievement (the original 1993 Colorado study)
- How School Librarians Help Kids Achieve Standards: *The Second Colorado Study* (2000)
- Information Empowered: *The School Librarian as an Agent of Academic Achievement in Alaska* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 2000)
- Measuring Up to Standards: *The Role of Library Information Programs & Information Literacy in Pennsylvania Schools* (2000)
- Good Schools have School Librarians: *Oregon School Librarians Collaborate to Improve Academic Achievement* (2001)

#### Contact Information

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*The Impact of  
Michigan School  
Librarians on  
Academic  
Achievement:  
Kids Who Have  
Libraries  
Succeed*



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## THE HEART OF THE SCHOOL

*It's lunchtime, a busy time in the library. There is the usual group catching up on the daily news and a student telling me about his latest success in his genealogy research. Some are putting together the jigsaw puzzle while others compete in a friendly game of chess. The computers are filled with students printing assignments and searching the Internet. Someone checks out a paperback and another requests an interlibrary loan. It's not quiet by any means! It's a gathering place. It's comfortable and welcoming.*

*Students stop me in the hall to discuss what they are reading. They don't wait until the yearly survey to tell me about a new author or series they think we should add to our collection. Though I arrive at school 45 minutes before school starts, there are always students waiting to get in and an hour and a half after school I often have to send them home so I can lock up.*

*Has it made a difference in the students' test scores? Studies indicate that it should. Has it made a difference in their school lives? I would like to think so.*

Patti Colvin  
Manton School Libraries  
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School library media programs in Michigan schools exert a demonstrably positive and statistically significant impact on reading test scores.

The impact of school library services on academic achievement cannot be explained away by:

### school differences

- overall per pupil school spending
- the teacher/pupil ratio

### community differences

- the percentage of children living in poverty
- the percentage of children belonging to racial/ethnic minority groups
- the percentage of adults who graduated from high school.

## FASTER OFF THE SHELF

*A student was asked if she was finding everything she needed. Her reply was that this was the third day that she had been looking on the Internet for information on "cloning" but she just couldn't find anything for her research paper. I determined that the real problem was that she was finding too much information and was overwhelmed. We told her that we had a book on cloning that might be helpful. When we placed it in her hand, she exclaimed, "wow, a whole book on cloning! This is great, can I use it?"*

*We told her not ONLY could she USE it she could actually TAKE IT HOME with her for 3 weeks. She was so excited, and said that she was going to tell her friends that we had books on stuff like this that they could use (novel idea those libraries). We felt like missionaries who had just brought food and water to the survivor on a deserted island!! She could now go home and do her work instead of staying after school!!*

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